(i) The Government has been minting Rs. 2 coins in Ferritic Stainless Steel instead of cupro-nickel since 2005 and has also decided to mint Rs. 5 coin in Ferritic Stainless Steel instead of Cupro-nickel to abort melting by unscrupulous elements.

(ii) Minting of Re.1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 coins has been placed on fast track.

(iii) Several issue offices of Reserve Bank of India held coin melas distributed coins through mobile banks at market place etc. Reserve Bank of India also advised select currency chest branches to do the same.

(iv) To cater to the large demand of hotels restaurants, retail shops etc., distribution arrangements have been made by Reserve Bank of India through registered Association/Trade bodies wherever they have come forward for the purpose.

(v) In Mumbai, arrangements have been made for distribution of coins through five post offices and similar arrangements is being put in place in other States.

(vi) All the Banks were advised to ensure distribution of coins through their currency chests branches proactively and they were also advised to identify some branches in each district for the specific purpose of coin distribution.

(vii) Banks have been advised to consider installation of coins vending machines.

Granting loans to farmers by banks

357. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are well aware that large number of farmers are being deprived of Rabi and Kharif loans annually by the Nationalised Banks in the country;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken against such Nationalised Banks responsible for not granting crop loans to the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof in this regard; and

(d) how the financial help shall be provided to the farmers to meet their situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The agricultural credit disbursed by Public Sector Commercial Banks has increased substantially during the last four years as may be observed from the data furnished below:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount disbursed
2003-04	42,211
2004-05	65,218
2005-06	94,278
2006-07	1,14,480

Nationalised Banks provide Rabi and Kharif loans to farmers as per the guidelines framed by RBI. There is no specific report regarding deprivation of the farmers for Rabi and Kharif loans by the nationalised banks.

Assessment of loan paying capacity of States

†358. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loans taken from different national and international financial institutions and market by Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat during the last six years; and

(b) whether the assessment of the capacity of the loan repayment of these States has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The details of the loans taken from different national and international financial institutions by Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat in the last six years is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) No Sir. However, for a limited purpose of debt sustainability, States having interest payments to Total Revenue Receipts ratio of greater than 20% are taken to be debt stressed.

Statement

*Loans taken by States from National and International Sources from 2001-02 to 2006-07**

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	States	loan taken from	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Chhattisgarh	National FIS	318.89	1070.65	800.63	580.32	183.78	117.28
		International FIS	4.72	38.33	3.50	8.26	44.55	45.03
		GRAND TOTAL	323.61	1108.98	804.13	588.58	228.33	162.31
2	Gujarat	National FIS	1883.62	2706.62	3897.91	4343.05	1482.27	879.00
		International FIS	623.53	1123.46	704.05	853.77	459.72	616.27
		GRAND TOTAL	2507.15	3830.08	4601.96	5196.82	1941 .99	1495.27
3.	Jharkhand	National FIS	1364.29	1720.30	873.47	2218.04	5603.00	910.52
		International FIS	0.00	0.00	1.06	1.02	2.05	12.44 $
		GRAND TOTAL	1364.29	1720.3	874.53	2219.06	5605.05	922.96

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.